

POLITICAL ADVOCACY



From D.C. to Orlando and Back to Northern California: This month has been a whirlwind tour of meeting with members and supporters of the merit shop from across the country. While it has been fulfilling to understand the issues our chapters face, it illustrates the challenges Northern California encounters every day. We have the most dedicated members who, in the face of impossible odds, still strive to fight for what is right in a political landscape that silences opposition.

Your passion and dedication to our values inspires me to continue this fight to wherever it may take us, and seek to protect and defend our supporters in the halls of power.

Upcoming BIG PLA Fight



We have a huge fight on our hands on **Tuesday, April 25th**, before the Senate Government Organization Committee. The committee will hear SB 574, which would only permit state agencies to undertake major construction projects, if the project is governed by a project labor agreement (PLA) and if the total costs are in excess of \$35 million. **This would essentially/potentially end our apprentices from working on public works projects, especially on K-12 schools and community colleges.** Here is the link to the [bill](#).

Here is what you can do to stop them from passing this horrendous bill:

1. If you live in these State Senators' districts, **call their district office and/or call in during the committee hearing to express your opposition.**
2. Organize apprentices in their districts to **speak out on how this would impact their livelihood.**
3. **Recruit members of the community or fellow contractors.**

These are the key committee members:

- [Chair Senator Bill Dodd](#)
- [Senator Angelique Ashby](#)
- [Senator Steve Glazer](#)
- [Senator Maria Alvarado Gill](#)
- [Senator Scott Wilk](#)
- [Senator Janet Nguyen](#)

[Here is the link to the Senate Government Organization Committee's website to learn how to participate.](#)

We need an all-hands-on-deck approach to kill this bill, and we could do so before it makes it out of the committee—**if we all mobilize now.**

Together, with the rest of ABC of California, we will be mounting a full-fledged advocacy campaign to defeat this bill. More to come...stay tuned.

Apprentice Graduations



Elk Grove Vice Mayor Kevin Spease and Butte County Supervisor Bill Connolly.

On March 24th and March 31st, I had the privilege of attending our apprentice graduation and the Salvation Army apprentice graduation in Oakland. These dual events reinforced the great work we do in the community and how ABC, despite what our union friends say, changes the lives of people for the better by giving them good paying job opportunities in the trades.

I was grateful to have met elected officials at the state and local levels who support our programs, and expressed interest in how we can expand them to communities who need it the most.

Advocacy in Action



Meeting Rep. Josh Duarte at his Capitol office in Washington D.C.

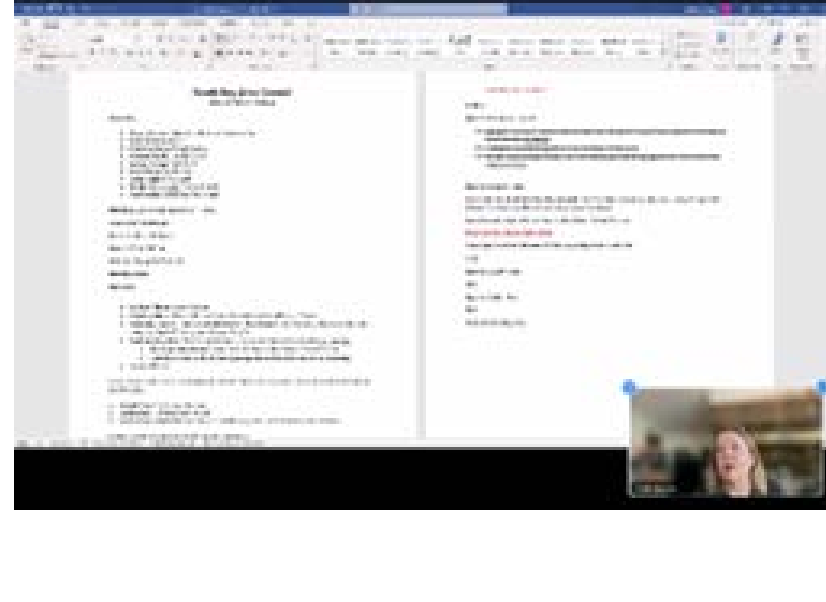
On March 22nd, the Capital Area Council hosted Assemblymember Josh Hoover at our North Highlands office. He shared his legislative priorities and how we can partner in the Capitol, especially as it pertains to career technical education for students.

One of my goals for all our area councils is to bring key stakeholders to you, dubbing this initiative: From Partners to Stakeholders. If there are elected officials you are interested in learning more from and hearing about, please let me know. I will connect with them and organize a way for us to meet to discuss the issues about which you care.



At the March 23rd Santa Clara Unified School Trustee Board Meeting, ABC NorCal staff testified before the Santa Clara Unified School District Board of Trustees Meeting; new lead instructor Luan Huynh gives emotional remarks against the proposed PLA.

Dr. Michele Ryan was among two voices who spoke out against implementing a large-scale project labor agreement on a school project. While the board ultimately voted to proceed on a pilot study of a PLA on one school site, I reached out to Dr. Ryan to hear her take and insight.



After an initial meeting, I invited her to serve as our guest speaker to the South Bay Area Council, where she engaged with member contractors about political issues the region faces. It was a lively discussion and I enjoyed serving as the intermediary between elected officials and our members.



Meeting with Eric Serna of Helix Electric at his Oakland office.

Finally, this month I met with member contractors in San Luis Obispo to understand how the contractor community was able to successfully defeat a project labor agreement effort in the San Luis Obispo Unified School District. I learned that to defeat such efforts you need an engaged and concerned core group of contractors, elected officials and public servants who uphold their fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers. In addition, merit shop supporters from across the state are needed to allocate efforts and present a sustained education and pressure campaign before the school district board of trustees/decision makers.

While we should not completely rest our laurels on such efforts from appearing again, it gives me hope that with the right partners and strategy we can overcome these issues before they appear on future agendas.

Thank you for the time. Looking forward to updating you on the fights we are holding on your behalf next month.